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On Friday, November 13, 2009, at approximately 1:24 p.m., Officer #1, who originally was responding to a lost/stolen license plate call for service, saw a green Chevrolet Blazer which matched a recently aired lookout as a suspect for a petit larceny. Officer #1, who was operating a marked police vehicle with his emergency lights and siren activated, attempted to stop the green Chevrolet Blazer, driven by Mr. David Masters but Mr. Masters refused to stop for the officer. Mr. Masters continued driving his vehicle northbound on Richmond Highway, running red lights. Once at Fort Hunt Road, Mr. Masters was forced to stop because of the traffic. Officer Ziants believed Officer #1 was following a vehicle in relation to the lost/stolen license plates call for service and not for a petit larceny. Officer Ziants and Officer #2 arrived at the intersection of Richmond Highway and Fort Hunt Road to assist Officer #1. Officer #1 stopped behind Mr. Masters, slightly off-set on the driver's side of Mr. Masters' vehicle. Officer Ziants stopped his marked police vehicle to the left of Officer #1's vehicle. Officer #2 stopped his marked police vehicle in the intersection, in front of Mr. Masters, to prevent Mr. Masters from fleeing. Officer #1 and Officer Ziants exited their cruisers and gave Mr. Masters commands such as "Show your hands. Get your hands up." As the officers were approaching, Mr. Masters drives his vehicle slightly to the right to drive around Officer #2's marked police vehicle. As he was driving around Officer #2's marked police vehicle, Officer #2 was near the front of Mr. Masters vehicle. Officer #1 and Officer Ziants maneuvered around the front of Officer #2's cruiser. While officer #2 was by the driver's side-mirror, Mr. Masters was ignoring all commands being issued and began to move forward. In the meantime, Officer Ziants was approaching Mr. Masters on the driver's side, slightly behind the driver's side front door. Officer #1 was approaching from the rear of Mr. Masters' vehicle on the driver's side. As Mr. Masters' was driving his vehicle forward, Officer #2 turned his body away from the vehicle. Officer Ziants believed that officer #2 was struck because of the way that Officer #2 turned his body and seeing the driver's side mirror was collapsed. As this was occurring, Officer Ziants stated he saw Mr. Masters reach down by his left side with his left hand and Officer Ziants said "I am going to shoot. Show me your hands." Simultaneously, Officer #1 says "No. No. No." and Officer #2 says "Stop. Stop. Stop." Officer Ziants stated he believed that Mr. Masters was reaching for a weapon so he discharged his service weapon at Mr. Masters striking him. As the vehicle continued moving, Officer Ziants stated he saw Mr. Masters' right shoulder dip. Officer Ziants believed Mr. Masters was continuing to reach for a weapon and Officer Ziants discharged his service weapon at Mr. Masters striking him again. Mr. Masters' vehicle came to a stop a short distance away at which time officers rendered aid until relieved by Fire and Rescue personnel. The driver was transported to INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The in-car video of this officer-involved shooting can be viewed [HERE](#).

No weapon was recovered.

The administrative investigation determined that Officer Ziants' foundation to utilize deadly force was predicated on several assumptions, inferences and misperceptions which were in violation of the Police Department's policies. The Police Department terminated the employment of Officer Ziants on May 6, 2011, as the Department's internal administrative investigation concluded his deployment of deadly force was not reasonably necessary as related to General Order 540.1, Use of Force, Section IV. Regulations, §A. Deadly Force. The particular section which was administratively violated reads in part:

IV. REGULATIONS

A. Deadly Force

Deadly force shall not be used unless it is reasonably necessary. It shall be the officer's belief based on the totality of circumstances known to the officer at the time that imminent threat of death or serious injury to any person exists and that all other methods of force to control the subject(s) would be or have already proven to be ineffective. Any use of deadly force which is not reasonably necessary in view of the circumstances confronting the officer is prohibited.